

32 The present Office Action was made final because “Applicant’s amendment necessitated
33 the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action.” Clearly, this is not the case, as
34 evidenced by the content of the current Office Action, and the finality of the Office Action
35 should be withdrawn.

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37 In the Amendment dated March 26, 2001, the single word “displayed” was added to three
38 of the claims. This was the only change.

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40 In the Amendment of March 26, Applicants stated that “Independent Claim 1 recites “a
41 subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model when said
42 selected element is a component of said model”. Relative to this subject matter, the AAPA on
43 pages 3 - 5 of the Specification was cited. However, Applicants are unable to find this subject
44 matter on these pages. For example, on page 5, beginning on line 3, it is stated that “The
45 elements of the list in this pane again depend on the user’s selection, and the type of elements
46 defined as being available through the relationship(s) of the view the browser provides.” This
47 does not teach, suggest or disclose “retrieving and displaying relationship information...” No
48 relationship information is retrieved based on selection of an element from a model; no retrieved
49 relationship information is then displayed. On page 4, lines 11 - 13, there is a discussion that a
50 relationship exists between elements displayed in a first pane and elements displayed in a second
51 pane. But there is no discussion or teaching that relationship information is retrieved and
52 displayed from the model when the selected element is a component of the model. Accordingly,
53 Applicants submit that the AAPA does not teach, suggest or disclose this subject matter.”

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55 This portion of the rejection was abandoned in the current Office Action, and it was not
56 because of any amendment to the claims. Clearly, the prior rejection was abandoned because the
57 claims distinguished over the art, not because of any amendment. Accordingly, the finality of the
58 prior Office Action should be withdrawn.

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60 II Traversal of the Rejections over the Cited Art

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 7, 8, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,903,478 to Fintel et al (Fintel). The Examiner rejected claims 3-6, 10-13 and 17-20 as being unpatentable over Fintel in view of “applicant’s admitted prior art (AAPA) at pages 3-5, 25”. Applicants traverse these rejections below.

A. The Present Invention

The present invention discloses a technique for displaying and editing components of data which may have complex many-to-many (i.e. non-hierarchical) relationships, using a program such as a browser. The components are presented in such a way as to make the **relationships** explicitly visible, allowing a user to navigate the **relationships** in an efficient, intuitive manner that clearly aligns with the structure of the underlying object model. In a preferred embodiment, when the user **selects** one of the explicit relationships, he is presented with a list of actions tailored to that relationship. In a further enhancement, the user may define one or more filters that will be applied to the actions list before it is presented.

Independent Claim 1 recites “a subprocess for retrieving and displaying relationship information from said model when said selected element is a component of said model”. Relative to this subject matter, Figure 181 of Fintel was cited. However, Applicants are unable to find this subject matter in this Figure. Figure 181 is described as illustrating “a process of establishing relationships between the objects that will be included in the symbol-based decision rationale table.” This does not teach, suggest or disclose “retrieving and displaying relationship information...” No relationship information is retrieved based on selection of an element from a model; no retrieved relationship information is then displayed. Further, Fintel does not discuss, teach or suggest an “object model” per se.

Amended Claim 1 also recites “a subprocess for enabling said user to select one or more relationships from said displayed relationship information”. Relative to this subject matter, Figures 175 - 201 are cited. There is no apparent description or discussion of a user selecting a relationship. There is no description or discussion of a user selecting a relationship from

92 “displayed relationship information.” Nothing is based on the selection of an element from an
93 object model, as per the present claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Fintel
94 does not teach, suggest or disclose this subject matter.

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96 In summary, the present invention is directed to the understanding of relationships, and its
97 claims recite the concept that relationship information is displayed and that relationships are
98 selectable by a user. This concept is not taught, suggested or disclosed in the cited art. This is the
99 problem with the prior art that is addressed by the present invention. The logical elements, such
100 as the classes and methods, presented in the pane, are selectable in the prior art. However, in a
101 complex object model, this is not enough information. Other relationships exist which cannot be
102 presented in the hierarchical format of the cited prior art. As discussed on page 11 of the
103 Application, “relationships are explicitly represented as elements of the model, as are the objects
104 (components) in that model...object models which are not strictly hierarchical in structure can be
105 conveniently and intuitively navigated, edited, and populated using the present
106 invention...relational databases typically have many complex relationships, which are not
107 necessarily hierarchical in structure.” Further, “by explicitly displaying the complex
108 relationships of the relational model, the present invention enables a user to better comprehend
109 the underlaying model...”(page 12).

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111 Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over
112 the cited art. Independent Claims 8 and 15 were rejected for the same reasons as Claim 1.
113 Accordingly, it follows that these claims also patentably distinguish over the cited art, and it
114 follows that the dependent claims also patentably distinguish over the cited art.

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116 III. Summary

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118 Applicants have presented technical explanations and arguments fully supporting
119 their position that the pending claims contain subject matter which is not taught, suggested or
120 disclosed by the cited art. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the present Application is in a

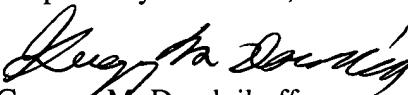
121 condition for Allowance. Reconsideration of the claims and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly
122 solicited.

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126 Respectfully submitted,

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128 Gregory M. Doudnikoff
129 Attorney for Applicant
130 Reg. No. 32,847

131 GMD:ld

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135 PHONE: 919-254-1288

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137 FAX: 919-254-4330

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